

## MULBARTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held remotely at

7.30pm on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021

Councillors present via remote videoing platform:-

Adam Banham Gerald Peachey Beverley Leek Steve Sewell  
Richard Tucker Derek Aldous Emma Reeve

Also in attendance were three District Councillors and 5 members of the public.

### **1.0 District and County Councillors' Report**

Following an explanation that the meeting was being held remotely as permitted under The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) (England) Regulations 2020 which came into force on 4th April 2020 and allows local authorities to conduct meetings remotely Cllr Leek welcomed those present to the meeting.

District Cllr Legg stated that he since he had sent in his report, he had received a complaint about flooding of a garden in Wild Radish Close. It was noted during discussions that a number of gardens had been extended some years ago and it was unclear if the ditches through these properties had been piped properly to allow correct drainage of water away from the area. Cllr Legg reported that he would liaise with SNC and the Environment Agency for further advice.

District Cllr Clifford-Jackson reported that SNC's scrutiny committee had looked at flooding concerns and will review the planning implications in March. Norfolk County Council were also due to review this issue and were looking at what all the agencies should be doing and how they can work together. Cllr Clifford-Jackson also reported that SNC's cabinet and full council were due to meet shortly and planned to raise their part of council tax by £5 per Band D property.

District Cllr Clifford-Jackson also raised the issue of hedges overhanging footpaths in the village and the need to remind residents of their responsibilities. She also asked if MPC had or would consider having an emergency plan.

District Cllr Francis reported that his fellow district councillors had already covered all issues and had nothing further to add.

### **1.1 Public Session**

No members of the public wished to speak at this time.

### **2.0 To close the meeting to public participation**

Cllr Leek closed the meeting to public participation and formally started the Parish Council meeting.

### **3.0 To receive and consider apologies for absence**

All Councillors were in attendance.

### **4.0 To receive declaration of interest on items on the agenda**

Cllr Banham declared an interest in any matters relating to planning (item 15) and the GNLP (item 14)

### **5.0 To confirm and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were unanimously agreed as a true record of the meeting after being proposed by Cllr Sewell and seconded by Cllr Banham. As this is a virtual meeting arrangements would be made for the Chairman to sign the minutes at a later date.

### **6.0 To receive financial report and approve invoices for payments as per schedule for January**

A proposed schedule of payments and the latest financial summary were reviewed. Following proposal by Cllr Peachey and seconding by Cllr Tucker all payments were duly passed. A copy of the payments is attached to these minutes.

#### **6.1 To review quotes and appoint contractor for Cycle Park**

Following discussions Cllr Peachey proposed that the line painting of the area be removed from the work scope and Contractor 1 be awarded the contract which is to include their recommendation of concreting the racks into place. This was seconded by Cllr Banham and unanimously agreed.

#### **6.2 To review quotes and appoint contractor for junction posts**

Following discussions Cllr Banham proposed that Contractor 1 be awarded the contract, this was seconded by Cllr Reeve and unanimously agreed.

#### **6.3 To review quotes and appoint contractor for tree works at the Meadows**

It was noted that three contractors had been approached for quotes, only one had replied. Following discussion Cllr Leek proposed that this quote be accepted; this was seconded by Cllr Sewell and unanimously agreed.

### **7.0 Working group report on completing items on the outstanding works list & next working group meeting**

Cllr Banham reported that the outstanding works working group at their next meeting would be refocusing on outstanding works and in particular the Common play equipment and pedestrian access onto the Common.

#### **7.1 To discuss Blakey's lease renewal**

Following discussions it was unanimously agreed to extend the lease by 12 months and to send correspondence to the tenant to confirm this; during this time negotiations can take place to formalise what actually exists on the site and appoint a legal representative for MPC.

### **7.2 To discuss the provision of an enclosed designated dog friendly area for the village**

During discussions it was noted that at the last meeting MPC considered three possible options for provision of a designated dog friendly area, two of which were ruled out as they were allotment sites; the third option was the top end of the Meadows that is owned by SNC. A briefing note relating to the history of this amenity land had been circulated for review.

### **8.0 To agree date for the Annual Council Meeting**

During discussions it was noted that the current regulations (under the Coronavirus Act 2020 section 78 (3)) allowing parish councils to meet remotely expires on 7 May 2021. Norfolk ALC advise that the Government is now being lobbied on extending and making permanent the provision for local authorities to meet remotely and is considering this matter. Following discussions it was unanimously agreed that the Annual Council meeting will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021 subject to legislative changes or government guidance. May's ordinary parish council meeting will follow the Annual Council Meeting.

### **8.1 To discuss and agree date for Annual Parish Meeting**

Following discussions it was unanimously agreed, subject to any legislative changes or government guidance, that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on 10<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm. This would then be followed by the Annual Council Meeting and May's ordinary council meeting.

### **9.0 To discuss request from the Football Club and the scaffolding tower on Mulberry Park**

During discussion of the Football Club's request to meet with MPC and the facilities manager from the Norfolk FA to discuss Norfolk FA funding to the football Club, it was noted that MPC were not aware, as the land owners, that Mulberry Park had been identified within the Norfolk FA's Local Football Facility Plan as a priority for investment, and that Norfolk FA's letter makes reference to a 30 year lease, the clubs aspirations to improve their facilities and progress through the football pyramid. This appeared to contradict what was previously discussed when MPC agreed to extend the lease for Mulberry Park to ten years.

Following discussions it was agreed that Cllrs Leek and Sewell would meet with the Football Club to discuss their ambitions and also the removal of the scaffolding tower.

### **10.0 Update on discussions with Ian Holdsworth Chartered Surveyors (IHCS) and their request for Cadent Gas to install a gas governor on MPC's land**

Cllr Leek reported that no new correspondence had been received since 6<sup>th</sup> January when IHCS advised they were awaiting an engineer's report and would be in touch again once received.

### **11.0 Update on renewal of EE & Three mast agreement**

It was reported that Strutt and Parker had sent an Engagement Letter, received today 01.02.21, confirming their terms of business. Following discussions it was agreed that Cllrs Banham and Sewell would review this document and then arrange for it to be signed and returned.

### **12.0 Update on wind farm proposals**

Cllr Aldous gave a full report on the different wind farm projects affecting the local area. The judicial review of Norfolk Vanguard had taken place as expected during January, and a decision was likely within two or three weeks. Mulbarton Parish Council was engaged in correspondence with government ministers over the Hornsea Three proposal and the alternative of using offshore transmission. He felt that matters would come to a point of decision fairly soon.

### **13.0 Update on Solar Farms**

Cllr Leek reported that Luminous, the company proposing a solar farm at Bracon Ash, had offered to make a presentation to MPC on their proposal. Following discussions it was agreed that MPC would take up this offer.

During discussions concerns were raised that SNC were not coordinating any developments within the area and the potential impact of two solar farms, wind farm sub stations, development at Swainsthorpe and A47 improvements at Thickthorn would have a big impact on the village.

### **14.0 GNLP SNC village cluster document**

Cllr Leek reported that the GNLP, Regulation 19 publication period began today (01.02.21) and closes at 17:00 on 15 March 2021; a separate allocation plan is still being developed by SNC for the village cluster sites in South Norfolk which will be available in due course.

Following discussions it was unanimously agreed that MPC would make a representation and a working group would be set up to work on this.

### **15.0 To consider planning applications received**

2019/2458 – land adjacent to 41 Rectory Lane. Cllr Sewell report that the applicant had appealed against SNC's refusal of planning permission. He report that MPC had previously submitted comments concerning this application and felt that no further submissions were necessary; this was unanimously agreed.

2021/0174 – The Birches, Swainsthorpe Road. Gym extension to Loggia. Cllr Sewell reported that this application had been received today (01.02.21) and he and Cllr Peachey would review it and make any necessary recommendation to all Councillors prior to the consultation closing date.

### **16.0 Correspondence requiring consideration**

- Email raising concerns about hedges encroaching on public pavements. Cllrs Leek and Sewell agreed that they would make note, on their walks around the village, of any properties that may be causing an obstruction and arrange for a letter to be sent to them reminding them of their obligations to keep pavements clear of obstructions.
- Email requesting that the car park is gritted as and when required. During discussion it was noted that there is a full grit bin outside the village hall entrance and all other groups make use of this facility.
- Email regarding the condition of the common land by the Village Pond. During discussion it was agreed that this should be discussed by the Common Steering Group.

### **17.0 Liaison officer reports**

Cllr Leek reported that there had been reports of anti-social behaviour at the Oakley Park South allotments which have been reported to the police and also that the shed window had been broken; she thanked Cllr Sewell for boarding up the window to prevent further damage. During discussions a number of options were discussed for re-siting the shed and these would be considered further in the spring once the central path has been installed.

Cllr Tucker reported he had attended a remote meeting held by GallifordTry about plans for the A47 improvements at Thickthorn Junction and copies of the minutes had been distributed to all Councillors. A decision date for the project is July 2022 with works starting in January 2023 and open to traffic in October 2024.

### **16.0 To receive any items for inclusion on the next agenda.**

- Amenity land for an enclosed designated dog friendly area for the village
- Emergency Planning – feasibility of completing and maintaining a plan

### **17.0 To adjourn the meeting for the 2<sup>nd</sup> public session**

District Cllr Clifford-Jackson commented that with regards to lockdown regulations SNC will need to know six weeks before 6<sup>th</sup> May what is happening for local elections that are planned; MP's are lobbying for a hybrid systems for meetings to be brought into legislation so that bodies could choose the best option for them.

A resident commented that she was pleased that the access onto the Common was being looked at and asked that consideration is given to wheelchair users. In response to a question about the proposal for work to be done on the ash tree at the Meadows, Cllr Leek reported that the tree was being maintained and not felled.

District Cllr Legg said that in relation to all the industrial developments proposed for the area he had asked SNC to draw up a policy. He suggested that MPC may wish to write to the Director of Planning on this issue.

Cllr Aldous commented that he had attended a virtual Town & Parish Council forum hosted by SNC and Broadland Council on 22 January and that 60 town and parish councils attended. District Cllr Legg said that District Councillors had their own events and were aware of the Town and Parish Council forum.

A resident reported that a ridge tile was loose on the bus shelter opposite the Co-op. Cllr Sewell said he would make safe the shelter and Cllr Leek confirmed that the work scope for repairs would be resented out as the original contractor had failed to complete the work.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.31pm.

The next meeting will take place on Monday 1st March 2021 at 7.30pm.

## Payments for January 2021

Cheque Number	Recipient	Details	Net total	Vat	Amount £'s
102694	Supplies for Schools	Reissue of chq 102690 payable to 9-5 Supplies As shown on payments for Dec 2020	38.10	-	38.10
102695	Fenland Leisure Products Ltd	Zip wire repairs	1793.47	358.69	2152.16
102696	Ben Perry	Supply & install external floodlight	90.00		90.00
102697	HMRC	PAYE	219.55		219.55
102698	A Phillips	Salary	712.50		712.50
102699	A Phillips	Expenses	19.00	2.00	21.00
102700	K Gooch	Common hay cutting	260.00		260.00
		<b>Total for month:</b>	<b>3094.52</b>	<b>360.69</b>	<b>3455.21</b>